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SUBJECT: OBSERVERS FOR VIETNAMESE ELECTIONS

REF: SAIGON 1600

FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF LETTER DATED JULY 20 FROM GVN FONMIN DO TO UN SYG U THANT. BEGIN TEXT.

RSR
RSC

DURING THE COURTESY VISIT I HAD THE HONOR TO PAY ON YOU IN NEW YORK, LAST APRIL, I CONVEYED TO YOU THE WISH OF MY GOVERNMENT TO WELCOME FOREIGN OBSERVERS IN VIET-NAM DURING OUR PRESIDENTIAL AND SENATORIAL ELECTIONS THE PROCEDURES OF WHICH WERE THEN DISCUSSED AT THE CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY.

I HAVE THE HONOR TO INFORM YOU THAT THE LAW GOVERNING THESE ELECTIONS WERE FORMALLY PROMULGATED ON JUNE 15, 1967 AND THE ELECTIONS FOR THE PRESIDENT, THE VICE PRESIDENT AND OUR SIXTY MEMBER SENATE WILL BE CARRIED OUT THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY ON SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 3RD, 1967.

(2)

ON BEHALF OF MY GOVERNMENT I SHOULD LIKE TO RENEW TO YOU OUR SINCERE DESIRE TO HAVE A NUMBER OF UNITED NATIONS OBSERVERS IN VIET-NAM DURING THESE ELECTIONS. MY GOVERNMENT BELIEVES THAT DUE TO THE PRESTIGE OF THE UNITED NATIONS ORGANIZATION, THE PRESENCE OF SUCH OBSERVERS WOULD CLEARLY TESTIFY TO OUR DETERMINATION TO HOLD FREE AND HONEST ELECTIONS. MOREOVER, AS THESE ELECTIONS CONSTITUTE THE CLIMAX OF A SERIES

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OF DEMOCRATICALLY CONDUCTED NATIONAL REFERENDUMS IN VIET-NAM, AND THUS REPR
ESENT AN EVENTFUL LANDMARK OF THE HISTORY OF THE NATION, I SHOULD THINK THAT THEY WOULD AFFORD THE UNITED NATIONS ORGANIZATION AN EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITY TO OBTAIN A FIRST HAND PICTURE OF WHAT THE SITUATION IN VIET-NAM REALLY IS.

IT IS ALSO MY HOPE THAT THE UNITED NATIONS OBSERVERS' TEAMS COULD MAKE SOME USEFUL INVESTIGATIONS OF THE NATURE OF THE PRESENT WAR, WHICH IS NOT IN ANY SENSE A CIVIL WAR, BUT TRULY A WAR OF AGGRESSION WAGED AGAINST SOUTH VIET-NAM, ON HER VERY TERRITORY. POSSIBLY, THE UNITED NATIONS OBSERVERS' TEAMS WILL BE ABLE TO REPORT TO YOU THAT DURING THE WHOLE PROCESS OF THE SEPTEMBER 3 ELECTIONS, THE VIETNAMESE CITIZENRY FULLY AND FREELY PARTICIPATED.

IN SPITE OF SOME PERSISTENT MYTHS, THE WAR IN VIET-NAM IS STILL A VIETNAMESE WAR, CARRIED OUT DAY AND NIGHT BY THE VIETNAMESE ARMED FORCES AND THE VIETNAMESE PEOPLE. THE FACT THAT WE CONTINUE TO LAY THE FOUNDATIONS FOR A DEMOCRATIC SOCIETY IN THE MIDST OF SUCH A WAR SHOWS THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF VIET-NAM HAS DEDICATED ALL ITS EFFORTS TO THE BETTERMENT OF THE LIFE OF ITS CITIZENS, AND NOT TO THE MAINTAINING OF ANY PRIVILEGES FOR ANY OF ITS MEMBERS. IT ALSO SHOWS OUR RESOLVE TO FACE THE CHALLENGE OF SOCIAL CHANGE BY PEACEFUL AND DEMOCRATIC MEANS, IN RADICAL OPPOSITION TO THE COMMUNIST IDEOLOGY BASED ON TERROR AND VIOLENCE.

ON THAT MATTER, IT IS MY OPINION THAT THE VIETNAMESE ELECTIONS FOLLOW THE SPIRIT AND THE RATIONALE OF THE UNITED NATIONS CHARTER, WHICH STRESSES THE CLOSE INTERACTION BETWEEN ORDERLY CHANGES WITHIN STATES AND THE PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE BETWEEN STATES THEMSELVES.

I WISH TO REITERATE TO YOU THAT ALL FACILITIES WILL BE GIVEN TO THE UNITED NATIONS OBSERVERS' TEAMS, SHOULD YOU DECIDE TO SEND THEM TO VIET- AM..

MAY I AVAIL MYSELF OF THIS OPPORTUNITY TO RENEW TO YOU, EXCELLENCY, THE ASSURANCE OF MY HIGHEST CONSIDERATION.
END TEXT. BUNKER
BT

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